# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:978
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2006
DAMAGE OF FOREST AREA DUE TO MINING
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**Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:**

(a) the percentage of forest area damaged due to mining during the last two years;

(b) the number of schemes received from the NGOs engaged in the field of environment for maintaining ecological balance during the last two years;

(c) the number of wild animals affected by mining during the last two years;

(d) the schemes drawn up for adequate protection of forest and wild life along with the progress made in this direction during the last two years; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to rehabilitate the affected forest residents as a result of forest mining?

## Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRINAMO NAJRAIN MEENA)

(a) During the last two years 18,901.317 hectare of forest land has been diverted for mining purposes which is only 0.03 percentage of the total forest cover of the country.

(b) The Ministry of Environment and Forests is implementing a scheme for providing grants-in-aid to voluntary organizations/NGOs for taking up afforestation activities. During the last two years, 517 organizations have been provided financial aid for afforestation activities.

(c) No mining has been allowed by the Central Government in the national parks and sanctuaries in compliance of the order dated 14.02.2000 of the Hon`ble Supreme Court of India prohibiting any non-forestry activity in such areas.

(d) While diverting forest lands for non-forestry purposes under tbe Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, adequate mitigatory measures are taken up to compensate the loss of forest areas.Compensatory Afforestation (CA) is one of the most important conditions stipulated by the Central Government. Besides this, the user agency is also required to carry out Safety zone creation, plantation around mining area, stabilization of over burden dumps through afforestation, and reclamation of mined out areas. In addition, the user agency is required to carry out Environment Impact Assessment and implementation of Environment Management Plan. As per available information, out of a total stipulation of 10.91 lakh hectares, about 5.12 lakh hectares of CA has been achieved so far.

(e) If a project involves displacement of people, the Central Government invariably ensures the preparation and implementation of `Resettlement and Rehabilitation Plan` for them through the user agency and the respective State/Union Territory Government.